(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission works out a 15-year perspective plan for national development, on the basis of which detailed Five-Year Plans are prepared, this applies to the Science and Technology sector also. However, individual Central Ministries/agencies in the field of science and technology such as Departments of Atomic Energy, Space and Ocean Development, have prepared longer range decade profiles. Government approvals given for elements in such profiles are fully taken note of in the Five-Year Plans in these sectors. It is recognised that the time-cycle from scientific research to utilisation is a long one; and there is, therefore, need to initiate action, well in advance, to identify and ensure timely availability and delivery of new technologies. Procedures in this regard are being worked out for selected areas of national importance.

Death of Army Officers in the Everest Expedition

535. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation was made into the circumstances under which four army officers of the Everest Expedition were frozen to death; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this tragedy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) An investigation was carried out to ascertain the circumstances in which some members of the Indian Army Everest Expedition 1985 lost their lives. One Officer, Maj. K.I. Kumar, died on 7th October, 1985 due to a fall of over 4000 feet, while four others (Maj. Jai Bahuguna, Capt. V.S. Negi, Lt. R.S. Bakshi and Lt. M.U.B. Rao) died due to a combination of exhaustion, dehydration and blizzard conditions on the night of 10/11th October, 1985.

Manufacture of Hydrogen Bomb by India

536. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what is Government's reaction to Jack Anderson's statement quoting C.I.A. reports, as published in the 'Times of India' of October 10, 1985, to the effect that India is going ahead with a hydrogen bomb?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : Government has already denied the statement of Mr. Anderson. India is not going ahead with a hydrogen bomb.

Indian Government request to U.S. for withdrawal of exemption to Pakistan

537. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have made a proposal to U.S. to withdraw Pakistan's current exemption from the Symington amendment prohibiting U.S. from providing aid to countries which are receiving from or delivering to other countries the nuclear enrichment equipment, material and technology with a view to dissuading Pakistan to procure/manufacture nuclear weapons and to acquire technology therefor; and